

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MASERU 01027 180823Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
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FM AMEMBASSY MASERU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7284
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MASERU 1027

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, LT, SF

SUBJECT: FOREIGN POLICY QUESTIONS RAISED BY MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS PERSONNEL

REF: MASERU 991

1. SUMMARY: IN THE COURSE OF THE DISCUSSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS
WITH FOREIGN AFFAIRS ASSISTANCE SECRETARIES (REFTEL) GREAT
CONCERN WAS SHOWN ABOUT U.S. FOREIGN POLICY TOWARDS SOUTHERN
AFRICA. THE ISSUES OF KOREA ISRAEL PUERTO RICO AND GUAM WERE ALSO
RAISED. FEELINGS ON THESE LATTER ISSUES WERE HEATED BUT FACTUAL
BACKGROUND WAS WEAK. END SUMMARY.

2. THE GREATEST CONCERN WAS OVER THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA.
THERE WAS UNANIMOUS FEAR THAT HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE WOULD BE
OVERLOOKED IN SOUTH AFRICA BECAUSE IT DOES NOT RECEIVE U.S. AID
AND THEREFORE USG WOULD HAVE NO LEVER FOR STRESSING IMPROVED
HUMAN RIGHTS. ALL ASSISTANT SECRETARIES AGREED THAT SOUTH AFRICA
IS ONE OF THE WORST VIOLATORS OF HUMAN FIRHGTS AND FELT THAT THE
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PAGE 02 MASERU 01027 180823Z

U.S. COULD AND SHOULD USE A TRADE EMBARGO AS THE ULTIMATE THREAT
TO BRING ABOUT DESIRED CHANGES. RELATED TO THIS WAS A DEEP CON-
CERN ABOUT ALLEGED U.S. BUSINESS INVOLVEMENT IN THE TRANSKEI,
AND WHY THE USG DID NOT PUT A STOP TO SUCH INVESTMENT.

COMMENT: THERE WAS MUCH HOSTILITY ABOUT THIS ISSUE. THE
FEELING SEEMED TO BE THAT U.S. BUSINESS INVOLVEMENT IN

RSA HAD HELPED SOUTH AFRICA DEVELOP WITHOUT A NEED FOR FOREIGN AID, AND THAT THE SAME WOULD HAPPEN IN THE TRANSKEI. UNDERLYING THIS WAS PROBABLY A FAIR AMOUNT OF JEALOUSY SINCE THERE IS VIRTUALLY NO U.S. BUSINESS INVESTMENT IN LESOTHO. THE OFFICERS PRESENT HAD NO EVIDENCE OF NEW U.S. INVESTMENT IN THE TRANSKEI, BUT SEEMED TO PRESUME THAT THIS WOULD NATURALLY BE THE CASE. THE IGNORANCE OF THESE YOUNG OFFICERS REGARDING THE BASIC ECONOMIC DIFFERENCES BETWEEN DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA AND DEVELOPMENT IN LESOTHO IS APPALLING.

3. THERE WAS INTEREST IN HOW SERIOUS THE U.S. IS ABOUT "ONE MAN, ONE VOTE" IN SOUTH AFRICA. CONCERN WAS EXPRESSED THAT A DEMAND FOR "ONE MAN, ONE VOTE" WOULD BE TOO MUCH TO EXPECT THE SOUTH AFRICANS TO ACCEPT AND WOULD DRIVE THEM INTO A BLOODY STRUGGLE THAT WOULD RESULT IN THOUSANDS OF REFUGEES (BLACK AND WHITE) FLOCKING INTO LESOTHO.

4. THE ISSUE OF NAMIBIA WAS ALSO BROUGHT UP BY SEVERAL PEOPLE. THEY WERE CONCERNED THAT AFTER THE NAMIBIA ISSUE IS SETTLED, THE U.S. WOULD POSSIBLY COME TO TERMS WITH SOUTH AFRICA AS IT IS AND WOULD LEAVE THE BLS COUNTRIES TO COME TO TERMS WITH SAG AND THE BANTUSTANS. COMMENT: THESE OFFICERS SEE USG AS THE INDISPENSABLE FORCE IN HELPING THE BLS COUNTRIES IN THEIR STRUGGLES WITH SOUTH AFRICA, AND THEY FEAR POSSIBLE DESERTION BY THE U.S.
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PAGE 03 MASERU 01027 180823Z

5. THERE WERE ALSO QUESTIONS ON SEVERAL MULTI-LATERAL ISSUES, I.E., KOREA ISRAEL (PALESTINIAN RIGHTS), PUERTO RICO AND GUAM. ALL OF THESE ISSUES WERE TREATED EMOTIONALLY WITH MINIMAL REGARD FOR FACTUAL DATA. THERE WAS A CONSENSUS THAT THE U.S. IS VIOLATING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE CONCERNED IN EACH CASE, BUT NO EXPANSION OF THIS THESIS WAS GIVEN. PUERTO RICO AND GUAM WERE REFERRED TO AS "THE AMERICAN COLONIES". NO DISCUSSION TOOK PLACE ON THESE ISSUES; IT WAS A TIME FOR PEOPLE TO VOICE THEIR FAVORITE SLOGANS AND VENT SOME HOSTILITY. COMMENT: THE STRENGTH OF THE HOSTILITY TOWARDS THE U.S. ON THESE ISSUES WAS EXCEPTIONAL. EMBOFF COULD SENSE THE DEPTH OF HOSTILITY DURING THE MEETING, ALTHOUGH AFTERWARDS ONE OF THE WOMEN MENTIONED HOW VERY RESTRAINED EVERYONE HAD BEEN.

6. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE PARTICIPANTS ARE IMPRESSED WITH THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION AND THE CHANGES IN U.S. FOREIGN POLICY TOWARDS SOUTHERN AFRICA, THERE IS AN UNDERLYING SKEPTICISM THAT COULD EASILY REVERT TO ANTI-U.S. FEELINGS IF THE U.S. SHOULD APPEAR TO THEM TO BE ONLY TALKING WITHOUT TAKING SOME FORM OF STRONG ACTION,

SUCH AS THE TRADE EMBARGO THEY SUGGESTED DURING THE DISCUSSION.

ON THE GUAM AND PUERTO RICO ISSUES, THERE IS A PRESUMPTION
THAT THEY ARE NOTHING BUT U.S. COLONIES. EMBASSY WILL
PASS SOME MATERIAL TO THEM ON THE PUERTO RICO ISSUE BUT
OUR FILES DO NOT YIELD ANYTHING OF VALUE ON THE U.S.
POSITION ON GUAM (LOCAL POPULATION'S CHOICE TO REMAIN
WITH U.S., ETC.) KOREA IS A LOST CAUSE WITH GOL EVEN
AT THE SENIOR LEVEL. IT IS FELT THAT THE U.S. PRESENCE
THERE UNDER UN COLORS IS A COMPLETE FABRICATION AND THERE
IS STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. FORCES.
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